Answers 15 Historical design development – review questions

1 **Historical design** refers to features of both functional and aesthetic design that are from past eras or a part of history. Many new designs feature inspirations from historical design perspectives of bygone eras. For example corsetry has been used for centuries. Each century uses the ideas of history and reinterprets the design in an innovative way.

Cultural design refers to designs that are linked to traditional crafts, textile art forms, textiles as a medium of self-expression or symbols that have meaning to a specific culture. Cultural designs may be used as an inspiration for other designers. Cross-cultural references or sub-cultural references in design may also serve as inspiration for designers.

Contemporary design refers to current look, a 'now' trend, feeling or idea that is modern or up-to-date.

2 Draping can be described as the ability to create a dress or garment basically by arranging fabric around a body using the natural fall of the fabric and securing the fabric falls in place with textile techniques such as pleating, gathering and smocking. Draping is a basic design technique in fashion. Early clothing was manufactured from basic seams and draped materials. A basic draped design is the Roman toga, which is a simple sheath of fabric swathed and gathered around the body and secured in place by a belt at the wearer's waist. Roman togas often were held in place at the shoulder by an ornate pin. Other draped designs are evident in historical and cultural timelines including the Scottish kilt, the Indian Sari and the Egyptian skirt.

3 **Example:** The 'Roaring 20s' was a time of emancipation, following the end of the First World War and prior to the great depression. This era is remembered for its social and political change. In keeping with the 'Roaring 20s' name, women's fashions became looser, skirts shorter, sheer fabric overlay tunics were beaded and uneven hemlines were adopted. Coco Chanel pioneered women's fashion pants and women wore short bobbed hair styles. The jewellery was also decadent: long 'flapper' beads and high arm bands were worn to accentuate the dance crazes such as the 'Charleston' that were the rage of that era.

The Roaring 20s could be used as an inspiration source for today's current skirts. The hemlines of contemporary fashion skirts are often quite uneven and include layers of sheer fabrics.

4 Jeans trends in Sydney, NSW, September 2011 include all ranges of colours from dark to light, sandblasted and coloured jeans. 'Nobody' jeans, known as an ethical jeans company has just released a bright red denim. Most jeans are currently skinny jean fit and tend to still have a higher waistline. Today, it seems anything in denim is fashionable!

5 Student individual responses will be based on their design research, interest and ideal aesthetics. It would be a great idea to share their answers as a class discussion to generate interest in different points of the historical timeline.

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